

Listing of Claims:

1. - 32. (cancelled)

33. - 64. (new)

CLAIMS:

33. (new) An apparatus for facilitating handling pipe, the apparatus comprising a body defining an open throat, and at least one jaw having a concave side for engaging a pipe the concave side having two opposed ends characterized in that said at least one jaw further comprises a jaw portion extending behind said concave side, said jaw portion hingedly mounted to said body between said two opposed ends about which said at least one jaw is rotatable with respect to the body to engage a pipe.

34. (new) The apparatus of Claim 33 wherein the body is generally horseshoe shaped and said open throat is defined by said horseshoe shaped housing.

35. (new) The apparatus of Claim 33 wherein said at least one jaw is arranged at least partly rotatable within the throat.

36. (new) The apparatus of Claim 33 wherein the at least one jaw is hingedly mounted to said body on a hinge pin.

37. (new) The apparatus of Claim 36 wherein said hinge pin is removable from said body.

38. (new) The apparatus of Claim 37 wherein said pin is removably fixed to said body using a locking pin.

39. (new) The apparatus of Claim 33 further comprising a further jaw.

40. (new) The apparatus of Claim 33 wherein said at least one jaw is inhibited from rotation by a locking member.

41. (new) The apparatus of Claim 39 wherein said locking member is arranged between the jaws to inhibit rotation of both jaws.

42. (new) The apparatus of Claim 40 wherein said locking member is retractable.

43. (new) The apparatus of Claim 40 wherein the locking member is arranged on at least one spring.

44. (new) The apparatus of Claim 40 wherein the locking member comprises a

2 handle by which the locking member is retractable.

1 45. (new) The apparatus of Claim 33, the body further comprising a seat for the
2 at least one jaw to abut when a pipe is engaged.

1 46. (new) The apparatus of Claim 40 wherein the locking member comprises a
2 safety device for ensuring the locking member locks the at least one jaw when engaged
3 with a pipe.

1 47. (new) The apparatus of Claim 46 wherein said safety device comprise an
2 indicator on said locking member and an indicator in the body, wherein in use, alignment
3 of said holes indicates that the locking member is in the correct locking position.

1 48. (new) The apparatus of Claim 47 further comprising
2 a safety locking pin, wherein said indicator on said locking member
3 is a hole and the indicator on said body is a hole, wherein in use, the holes align
4 and the safety locking pin is inserted therethrough.

1 49. (new) The apparatus of Claim 33 further comprising
2 a resilient means arranged between the body and the at least one
3 jaw wherein the at least one jaw is inhibited from opening by said resilient means.

1 50. (new) The apparatus of Claim 33 further comprising
2 a resilient means arranged between the body and the at least one
3 jaw wherein the at least one jaw is inhibited from closing by said resilient means.

1 51. (new) The apparatus of Claim 49 wherein the resilient means is arranged in
2 an over-center mechanism.

1 52. (new) The apparatus of Claim 51 wherein the over-center mechanism
2 comprises a spring guide and a pin and said resilient means comprises a spring the
3 spring guide rotatable about the pin, the spring compressible in the spring guide upon
4 movement of the at least one jaw.

1 53. (new) The apparatus of Claim 33 further comprising
2 at least one handle on the apparatus for carrying and applying the
3 apparatus to a pipe.

1 54. (new) The apparatus of Claim 33 wherein the apparatus comprises an
2 elevator.

1 55. (new) A method for facilitating handling pipe, the method comprising the steps
2 of lowering the throat of an apparatus over a pipe, the apparatus comprising a body
3 defining an open throat, and at least one jaw having a concave side for engaging a pipe
4 the concave side having two opposed ends characterized in that said at least one jaw
5 further comprises a jaw portion extending behind said concave side, said jaw portion
6 hingedly mounted to said body between said two opposed ends about which said at least
7 one jaw is rotatable with respect to the body to engage a pipe,
8 the at least one jaw rotating to engage the pipe.

1 56. (new) A drilling rig comprising
2 a platform having a wellcenter and at least one preparation opening
3 characterized in that said platform further comprises a rotatable tower on which
4 pipe can be rotated about.

1 57. (new) The drilling rig of Claim 56 wherein the tower further comprises a
2 carriage arranged on said tower to move therealong.

1 58. (new) The drilling rig of Claim 57 wherein said carriage comprises an arm.

1 59. (new) The drilling rig of Claim 58 wherein said at least one preparation hole
2 is spaced from said tower an equal distance to the length of said arm.

1 60. (new) The drilling rig of Claim 56 further comprising a wireline for hoisting a
2 pipe.

1 61. (new) The drilling rig of Claim 60 wherein said wireline also hoists the
2 carriage.

1 62. (new) The drilling rig of Claim 60 further comprising a winch for winding said
2 wireline.

1 63. (new) The drilling rig of Claim 60 further comprising an elevator arranged on
2 the end of said wireline.

1 64. (new) A method for handling pipe, the method comprising
2 picking up pipe on the end of a wireline, and
3 rotating the pipe on a rotatable tower to align with a preparation
4 opening.